iron and steel production or cement production, for quantities which are not required by the linked end users.

Safety audit in coal mines

1808. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether safety audit is periodically carried out in respect of coal mines operating under Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) and others;

(b) if so, whether over 50 per cent of the coal mines operating under BCCL and other have been declared unsafe for operating;

(c) if so, the details of the coal mines so declared unsafe; and

(d) the steps taken to provide due safety to workers working in these collieries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Safety audit in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. and other subsidiary companies of Coal India Ltd. is conducted periodically.

(b) No, Sir. Mining operations are carried out in Coal mines of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) and other subsidiary companies of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) in accordance with the Statutes under Mines Act 1952 and rules and regulations framed there under such as Coal Mines Regulations 1957, Mines Rules 1955 etc. and circulars issued from time to time by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS). Permissions are obtained from DGMS wherever necessary. However, if violations are pointed out during the course of inspections by the officials of DGMS, immediate action is taken by officials of mines to rectify the violations. In addition, officers of Internal Safety Organizations of subsidiary companies also carry regular inspection of mines to monitor safety of mines and persons working therein.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (b) above.

(d) Following broad safety measures are being adopted by CIL to provide due safety to the workers:

1. CIL has established a structured multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) to assist the line management at various levels in matters related to safety.

2. Conducting Safety Audit of mines by experts for assessment of threats and implementation of the recommendations thereof once every 2 years or earlier if necessary.

3. Introduction of Risk Assessment as a tool for improvement of safety—Risk assessment has been conducted in some mines in each coal producing mines of C.I.L.

4. Thrust is being maintained on preparedness for emergencies through:

(a) Reviewing emergency action plans for each and every district in under ground.

(b) Demarcating escape routes on plans as well as in working areas below ground.

(c) Conducting mock rehearsals and monitoring failure points for further improvement.

5. Towards avoidance of accident due to inundation the following measures are being taken:

(a) Taking the required preventive measures against danger of inundation after assessment of danger from under ground and surface source of water in each mine prior to every monsoon.

(b) Conducting check surveys by company surveyors as well as cross checking the same in some cases by external agencies.

(c) Establishment of centralized emergency pumping arrangement for use during emergencies.

6. Thrust on measures for reduction of roof and side-fall accidents in below ground mines are being continued by:

(a) Drawing up of support plans based on RMR and implementation of the same.

(b) Greater use of Roof Bolting/Stitching methods of roof support by quick setting cement capsules.

(c) Introduction of mechanized drilling by roof bolting machines thereby

(i) improving quality of roof bolting as well as

(ii) reducing exposure of roof bolting crew to hazard of roof fall

(d) Introduction of resin grouted roof bolts in water seams.

(e) Training of support personnel and Supervisors.

(f) Reducing exposure of workman by increasing mechanization through SDLs/LHDs, PSLW and continuous miners.

(7) Measures for reduction of accidents in open cast mines were pursued through

(a) Implementation of various Codes of practices, Traffic Rules, Checking of contractor's vehicles/equipment by company engineers.

(b) Training of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery operators and contractor workers.

(c) Enhancement of safety awareness through publicity and propaganda, safety drives, safety weeks etc.

8. Thrust on training and retraining of workmen, supervisors to increase safety awareness of the workmen. CIL is preparing training films on CD for imparting standardized training in all its training centers.

Assistance to illegal miners of coal

†1809. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Jharkhand has submitted any scheme to the Central Government for providing assistance to the persons involved in illegal mining of coal in the State so that they could earn their livelihood legally;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the view- point of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Govt. of Jharkhand has instituted a study through Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and Xavier Labour Research Institute, Jamshedpur to examine, *inter-alia*, the supply-side interlinkages between illegal coal mining and socio-economic conditions/demographic

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.